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Wehr Nature Center Celebrates 40th Anniversary
Summer Solstice Weekend Brings Fundraiser & Open House to Wehr

Milwaukee, WI (June 17, 2014) Celebrating 40 years of connecting people with nature, Wehr Nature Center will present Summer Solstice Social and the free 40th Anniversary Open House the weekend of June 21 and 22.

Summer Solstice Social

Saturday, June 21, the longest day of the year, visitors will enjoy an evening of small-plate dining and desserts, a silent auction, and the traditional lighting of the summer solstice bonfire. Summer Solstice Social, a fundraising event for accessibility improvements at Wehr, runs from 7-9 p.m.

From 7-8:15 p.m., event-goers may bid on items in the summer-themed silent auction. Garden art and picnic items are among the donations. Bid winners will be announced at the end of the evening.

Throughout the night, guests will experience some of the summer-solstice traditions. Visitors may take part in the practice of making a wish and tossing a flower onto a lake to carry the wish home, or, later, when the bonfire is lit, guests may prepare for the future by casting herbs into the fire for protection or to ensure a prosperous harvest.

Admission is \$15 per person. Wine or beer tokens may be purchased for \$5 each. Parking is included in the admission fee. Preregistration is not required; walk-ins are welcomed.

Funds raised at the event will go toward the cost of re-grading the amphitheater for wheelchair accessibility. This improvement is part of the Friends of Wehr's Accessibility Capital Project. More information on the project is available at friendsofwehr.org/accessibility-2/

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40th Anniversary Open House

Sunday, June 22, Wehr Nature Center will celebrate its 40th Anniversary with a free Open House from 1-4 p.m.

One activity is sure to bring back vivid memories. Throughout the years, the hands-down favorite for hands-on activities has been making plaster animal tracks. During the open house, kids of ALL ages (3-93) may experience this activity again.

Wehr has touched the lives of many in the Milwaukee area. Event-goers can read favorite stories about Wehr from former volunteers and even write their own special memories and post them on the Memory Wall. Included on the wall is a collection of snapshots documenting activities of sharing nature at Wehr—as well as the fashion and hairstyles of the day!

Also making visitors reminisce is a retro film festival. Showing at 1:30 p.m. will be a promotional VHS video produced for Wehr in about 1998, “Wehr Nature Center: A Place for All Seasons.” At 2:15 p.m., the reel film from the 1970s, “Look Around in Spring,” will present the work of naturalist-photographer Murl Deusing, who had a popular travel and adventure TV show in the 1960s and 70s, “Murl Dusing’s Safari.” Also on reel film at 3:30 p.m. will be the original 1970s cartoon of the famous Dr. Seuss book, *The Lorax*.

Visitors are also encouraged to include a little exercise in the day. Guided family nature walks will be led at 1:15, 2:15 and 3:15 p.m. A walk focusing on the natural history of Wehr Nature Center will be led by Natural Areas Manager Mark Verhagen at 1:45 p.m., and the human history of Wehr Nature Center will be led by Naturalist Bev Bryant at 3 p.m. Families may also choose to follow the self-guided Timeline Trail to learn about the history of Wehr going back 10,000 years.

Wehr Nature Center, in Whitnall Park, is located at 9701 W. College Ave.

For more information, contact Wehr Nature Center at (414) 425-8550.

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